City	Toronto
Country	Canada
Population	2.9 million
Title of policy or practice	Food By Ward Interactive Map (FXW)
Subtitle (optional)	Food Assets and Opportunities Ward By Ward
URL video	https://youtu.be/EgFG9AMJ1Z0
Category	Social Diets and Nutrition
SDGs	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 10, 11.
Brief description	Food By Ward (FXW) is an initiative of the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) designed to showcase Toronto's community food assets across all City wards and to call for greater attention to food as a key element of our urban system. It touches on major Milan Pact themes by addressing health, equity, sustainability and the multifunctionality of food. As a small, practical project that can become a tool for other cities, it is a model of citizen engagement.

FXW launched in 2016 as a set of ward profiles distributed to residents who self-identified as "food champions." FXW was designed to inspire and support food champions to advocate on food issues with their City Councillors. As well, the initiative aimed to grow the City of Toronto's appetite for using food assets to solve city problems, and to make it easier for City staff and community-based agencies to use food assets strategically. FXW also increased community capacity through a toolkit with information on how to contact your City Councillor, organize a meeting, speak to the media, etc.

Work began in 2017 to create an online interactive map that could be updated annually. Since its launch in 2018, the map has been accessed thousands of times. Community partners report that they regularly use it to help clients access services such as food banks, school meal programs, community gardens and farmers' markets. It has also become an important advocacy tool within City government to ensure that food is included in all major policies and strategies, including Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan.

FXW is in keeping with the overarching philosophy of the TFPC that food is a lever to link health, social, environmental and economic policy. FXW can help decision-makers' problem-solve and give both community food advocates and municipal staff a better understanding of the role of neighbourhood food environments in the creation of a healthy, equitable and sustainable city. |
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	The Food By Ward Initiative has involved the work of many diverse partners including members of the Toronto Food Policy Council and the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, the TFPC Food Policy Specialist, City staff from other departments, food security agencies and non-profits, Community Health Centres, student interns, community volunteers and City Councillors.
Approach	• Toronto-specific indicators developed for community food assets; • Workshops held to gather community feedback; • Ward profiles and engagement tools developed; • Public launch May 2016; • TFPC website updated with feedback mechanism; • Ward profiles converted into online interactive map; • Online interactive map launched June 2018;

	• Methodology for keeping the map updated, as well as new tools for community engagement, currently being developed.
Innovation	Asset mapping is a growing field. Maps are increasingly used as planning tools for social and economic development. They help assess the current condition of a community, facilitate communication among stakeholders, foreground problems, and contribute to the design of solutions. However, community food asset mapping is still relatively new. The FXW project helps food advocates overcome a major challenge -- convincing cities that food is a lever that can be used to solve multiple city problems, including food insecurity, social isolation, newcomer integration, waste and water management, and resilience in the face of climate change. Planners typically use maps for internal purposes. FXW was the first initiative in Canada to use asset mapping to look both inward and outward. It helps put food on the City agenda by engaging City staff and politicians, and by providing them with a useful tool for understanding the role of food in cities. It also engages citizens and provides a forum for citizen participation. The FXW initiative is hosted by the TFPC as a model of citizen participation in local governance.
Impact	The FXW initiative puts literally puts equity on the map. A major motivating factor behind the FXW initiative was to give residents in low-income neighbourhoods lacking in food services and resources the tools they need to advocate for themselves. Toronto is the child poverty capital of Canada with more than 26% of children living in families with low income. The highest rates of poverty are in racialized, Indigenous and newcomer communities. FXW brought to light that wards with more low-income residents often have fewer food assets than wealthier communities. An added feature of the online map is an overlay of median income across the city, which highlights where food assets do not correlate with need. The FXW initiative was met with great enthusiasm from community members, especially in underserved communities. More than 250 people attended the launch event at Toronto City Hall, including 15 City Councillors. Since the map went online, it has been frequently used by community agencies to help their clients access food resources. The TFPC has received enthusiastic feedback from several community agencies, who wish to partner to expand the map and use it as a tool for community organizing and skills building.
Inclusion	FXW has facilitated inclusion on multiple levels and has the potential to address all of the thematic areas of the Framework for Action. It is a "whole of government" initiative which has encouraged collaboration among staff across City divisions, who provide data on an ongoing basis, and it has created many opportunities for collaboration among municipal government and civil society partners. It continues to draw in more civil society partners and private sector players, and to create meaningful collaborations with communities within the Toronto city region. For example, the City of Toronto, through the TFPC and the Economic Development Division, was a founding member of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, a partnership among the Ontario government, the City of Toronto, and the five regions surrounding it. The mission of the GHFFA is to identify pathways for a more integrated approach to food and farming viability in the region in order to ensure its vitality as a leading food and farming cluster. The GHFFA recently embarked on a mapping exercise of its own, and there is ongoing collaboration with the TFPC on how to use food asset mapping most effectively.
Adversity coefficient	One of the biggest challenges in a prosperous Global North city such as Toronto is inequity across neighbourhoods. The FXW initiative provides a visually dramatic way of depicting such inequities. The FXW initiative shows what can be done by one staff person with enthusiastic community backing. Literally thousands of volunteer hours from Toronto Food Policy Council and Toronto Youth Food Policy Council members and many others went into developing this initiative – from collecting data to connecting with food champions to producing advocacy tools to organizing workshops and

the public launch. It is a testament to the citizen commitment to build a healthy, just and sustainable food system for this city.

After the initial launch in 2016, there was a great deal of discussion about how to keep the data current and how to stimulate further engagement. The online interactive map was only made possible because of many more volunteer hours updating the resources listed on the map, as well as data sharing agreements with partners.

The FXW initiative showcases community capacity-building. It engages people and gives them something to show for their efforts. It uses simple tools to measure progress, and to support continuous improvement. It is a replicable tool that can be transferred and adapted to cities around the world.